

Gubernatorial and Congressional campaigns and referenda.

I would like to commend the Mayor, who makes his home with his wife Antonia and their three children, Gina Marie, Raymond Jr., and Anthony on his achievements and congratulate him for this well-deserved award. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to The Honorable Raymond V. Mariano for his outstanding record of public service.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RHONDA RASMUSSEN

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with regret and deep sadness that I rise to honor Rhonda Sue Rasmussen, former constituent from San Bernardino, who passed away on September 11, 2001, when a hijacked plane collided with a section of the Pentagon where she worked. She was one of the many American heroes who perished that day from an evil terrorist attack.

Throughout the years, Rhonda was a true visionary. She loved her family. I believe that the well-being of our Nation's peoples depends on all of our dedication and efforts to invest in the present and the future.

Mr. Speaker, Rhonda served as an auditor for the army. She was one of the many faceless men and women that support our military forces and keep our Nation safe. She was a dedicated worker, one who always makes sure that citizens come first. She was extremely strong, brave and dedicated to her work. She had a sense of fun about her, even though she approached her duties with great seriousness and duty. They say a person is measured by the lives he or she touched. Through the grace of God, Rhonda touched many lives.

Rhonda's family had nothing but praise for her, describing her as a dedicated and great hero that on Tuesday put herself in harm's way. So in giving this honor, we are honoring her this day.

The last time her family saw her was during a barbeque earlier this year. It was at this barbeque, hosted by her mother who suffers from cancer, that she told her family that she would soon move to Monterey, California. Regretfully, that day will never come. A family will never be reunited, and we grieve for the loss of this wonderful soul.

Rhonda served our nation proudly, raised four wonderful and dedicated children, and was loving wife. Although she, her husband, and her children had to move often due to her work, she managed to raise four wonderful children. Three of her children are in college and the fourth is a Forestry Department firefighter in Washington state.

May God protect the soul of this wonderful woman. In a time when decent people are in short supply, she was a model and example to her children and her community. Selfless as seen in her commitment to the safety of our nation. Caring as seen in her devotion to her family. Her soul is one of the many departed

on that fateful day, but the impact of her death is a deep well of sorrow in itself. I wish to extend to her children, husband, and the rest of her family my most heartfelt condolences.

I cannot ever come to comprehend what her loss means to her family, but I am saddened and I mourn with them. Let us take comfort in the fact that she is now guarded by our Lord. Rhonda you are loved by many, you served your nation well, you are a hero, and will not be forgotten.

A devoted wife to Floyd Rasmussen, Rhonda lived in Virginia during her work at the Pentagon. Rhonda has four children: Nathan, T.J., Jeremiah and Becky.

In short, Rhonda Rasmussen is a model of excellence we can all follow. Rhonda will be missed by family and friends alike. She touched us all with her kind deeds and leadership in her community.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTA R. GOLDMAN

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Roberta R. Goldman of Shrewsbury Massachusetts. She has been selected to receive an award from the Grafton Democratic Town Committee on Sunday, September 16, 2001 in Grafton Massachusetts.

Following graduation from Boston University, she moved to Shrewsbury to raise her family and became involved in numerous civic and political activities. She served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives where she helped pass the Education Reform Act of 1985. She also served as Director of Educational Reform in the Office of Education Affairs under Governor Dukakis.

As a member of the Democratic State Committee since 1988, Roberta has served on the Rules committee and on the Host Committee for four Democratic State Conventions held in Worcester. She has been a delegate to five Democratic National Conventions and last year was elected as an Elector to the Electoral College. Her campaigning for candidates at every level, from local office holders to Presidential candidates is legend. She is Co-Vice Chair of the Shrewsbury Town Democratic Committee, and chairs the bi-annual Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award event.

As a social studies teacher at Shrewsbury High School, she has worked to instill an appreciation of involvement in the political process. Through the Political Action Group for high school students, young people participate in local activities as well as actively campaigning in New Hampshire for the presidential candidate of their choice in the state primary.

Mr. Speaker, I commend an outstanding, tireless campaigner, and congratulate her on receiving this award. I know all of my colleagues join me in paying tribute to her today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 339, on September 13, 2001, I was unable to record my vote. At the time I was at the Pentagon surveying the damage and encouraging the rescue workers.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

VERMONT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN MEETING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this summer. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see government do regarding these concerns.

I am asking that these statements be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

ON BEHALF OF KEVIN DECAUSEMACKER
REGARDING GUN CONTROL, MAY 7, 2001

Kevin Decausemacker. Thank you for this opportunity. It is a really great thing you let the youth of Vermont come and express their opinions.

Congressman Sanders. Thanks very much for coming, Kevin. Give us your name for the record.

Kevin Decausemacker. The year was 1938.

Congressman Sanders. Your full name.

Kevin Decausemacker. I'm sorry. I'm a little tired. I'm Kevin Decausemacker. A little hard to pronounce. The year was 1938, one year before the invasion of Poland. It was now that Adolf Hitler implemented the first example of gun control. He prohibited the Jewish people from owning firearms, and by so doing took substantial power away from the people. He made it easier to commence his mission of genocide with little resistance from his victims. This is what a government can do with too much power: Whatever it wants. Our government has created three different branches to limit the power it possesses. The United States promotes a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. The more we constrict the rights that the Second Amendment states we have, the more power is taken away from the people and given to the government. I feel that the more power the government has, the more the people are at risk of being taken advantage of by it. Why implement gun control then? Solely for safety. However, if safety is the main concern, in England and Australia, where there are strict gun-control laws, there have been rising breaking-and-entry and burglary numbers. So what gun control has done there has